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Narrators**

**Janet & Gary Worthington  
Interviewer**

**Gary Worthington  
Video Photography**

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Charles Lewis and Gary Worthington are going through a scrap book of photos and news articles that was compiled by Cecil Lewis, Charles's Wife.

GW: And this is the Wah family?

C: This is the Wah family. This first picture looking at is Doctor Bob Wah. He was here for years. After Doc Hay died he took over and run it till his death. This is his Nephew, E.B. Wing, he's gone too. These two boys here are Doctor Bob's boys. This is Eddie Wah, is the returned dentist and his boy Henry lives in Portland also and is a retired from the Postal Service. Wish I knew these dates but you don't want that anyway.

GW: How about these? These are shots of the inside of Kam Wah Chung?

C: Yes, I'm not to up on that, I'll just show what they are and that's it.

GW: Kay. I'm looking at the first one here.

C: That's just the inside of their building after they retired and turned it into a museum. This is another photo of inside where he, this is where he put his herbs together and made his medicine.

GW: OK

C: That's where that is. (next photo) This is the inside picture and Doctor Hays office, won't say office building but where their religious order was, where they preformed their duties as a good citizen. Remember some order, don't know what it was. This is the medicine, some of the medicine he had. He – different forms of herbs he made into medicine. Which is something else. He was a very uncanny man and very, very sharp. Never did kill anybody over his medicine. He knew what he was doing. He had everything in the world down there.

GW: The museum does have this photo but I don't know about this one. This is uh, picture of Doctor Hay's funeral service?

C: Yes, Doctor Hay's special casket made of Ebony wood. It was very, very expensive and very beautiful and the flowers around were made and put together by Cecil and (can't understand the name) and myself. We attended the service and helped put the service on and delivered the casket to the cemetery where he is buried over on the North side of the John Day. I can't remember the name of it. Rest Long? By his Wife, other chinamen buried over there. You can go over there; you can see this, a big cement slab that Doctor Wah put in there. Do you like what you do with this kind of work?

JW: This is just volunteer.

C: I know it is.

JW: I do, I love it.

C: You won't find anything around town like this I'm sure of it. I may be wrong but.

JW: We have not seen anything at all like this, is just --- (cut off )

C: All I know is all the people know is just a bunch of chinamen around there and that's about it. O'l Doc Bob they called him, O'l Doc Hay, lots of people went to him.

JW: That's what I understand.

GW: I think the museum does have, uha, these photos. (all talking over each other)

C: My Wife is the (unclear) up Canyon City Museum also. Have you been through there?

JW: Yes we have. I saw, I saw the models there with her name on them all the models.

C: Yea, she made all them. They set around our house every day. I thought I was gon'a go crazy. They get to look'n at ya.

JW ( laugh) They do?

C: Yes she made em all.

JW: Yes they are very nice. It's an excellent display this show.

GW: (another photo) Four people. One looks to be Lung On. (reading the photo) Lung On, Mable McKern, Doctor Hay, Mrs. McKern.

C: Mable McKern was her Mother I guess.

JW: Who were they?

C: People from Mount Vernon. They hung around with the chinamen, (mumbled) they have their friends. Some people is, some people isn't. I don't remember now.

(new photo) Monkey Tam, I didn't know him either.

Note: (I don't know who he was referring to that saved all the photos)

(all talking over each other)

He saved things, got pictures, other wise they wouldn't even be here. I doubt anybodies got em.

JW: We wouldn't have records of what's going on.

C: (new photo) Doc Hay coming out of his quarters to greet Mrs. Truesdale. She was a teacher up here in the school in John Day, Oregon.

(new photo) Another picture of Doc Hay coming out to greet some lady, I don't know who she is. (Points out no rock on the addition). That was before the rock was put in, ya see?

GW: Wife's writing here. Cecil's writing reads, Doc Hay & Mrs. Truesdale at Kam Wah Chung building stone replaced, can't quite make out next word, when Doctor Hay and Lung On bought the building. She adds, he always wore a white shirt.

C: You can see it's before the stone. You can see that now. What you going to do with all this stuff?

JW: There going to, we will give it to the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department and they will edit the pieces and use it for research, give it to people for research.

C: Getting important as that, I never thought this would happen to me. Isn't that a good old picture? He's blind you see, you can tell by looking at that picture that mans blind. Very uncanny. He'd feel your hand, I know he'd call you by name and say, "What's wrong? His hands were very, could feel them ya knew they was different than anybody else's hands.

JW: How about his fingernails?

C: I can't remember. They weren't to long, no, I can't remember. I don't think they were long, he kept them long but they weren't excessively long if I remember right. You got me on some of the things I can't remember.

JW: Oh you remember so much it's amazing.

GW: Cecil writes about this picture that it is the original Kam Wah Chung. The building is later re-done.

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C: As you see it's all in the wood, all wood. She needs a little help with some of her explanations. She done alright.

JW: Yes she did. These are wonderful things to have.

C: She knew, (can't understand)

GW: I think the museum has this.

JW: I think they do.

C: All these years she put in a lot of time doing this over a period of 50 years.

JW: Took a lot, took a lot.

C: He went through all the kids almost before they was born till they went into school. Business and retired now. Went through all that and it's a lot to remember some of it.

JW: Oh yes.

C: Dad always remembered giving me that dime. (Photo of Memorial or Funeral card given out to people attending the services) Henry Wah? Gone to the service like that if he had been an American like that, they'd say he'd tried to do his best. Bob died they had a casket down there and they put his hat on there. I never seen it but once and I've been to many, many services. Started to ring a bell well that's a pretty good idea. Old boy's gone, they put his hat down there, that's it, see?

GW: Reading from Cecil's notes. Doctor Ing Hay never new about the whiskey Lung On was selling. It was kept in little side building on the South side of the present building which was later taken down. Doctor Bob Wah and Charlie Lewis found the whiskey and put it up beneath the attic floor after Lung On passed away. Doctor Ing Hay knew nothing about it, it was boot leg whiskey Lung On was selling to his customers.

C: Yea, that's right. Isn't that something.

GW: It is.

C: I had forgot about that see, I did that but I had forgot about that . Winny? (Dr. Bob Wah) and I guess his Nephew. I guess he passed away last year 2005? He had a brain tumor and passed away. Nice kid. Smart, very, very. Eddie Wah, the dentist. I got a brace there. He put it in, in 1940, early 40's. He just started practice, his office down there where it is now. I wore that for, can't remember, for many years till it got loose. In the mean time he moved to Portland, opened a couple businesses, bought a big

building down there with a couple other guys and he replaced that (brace) for me and I still got it . He's retired since then and everything. He's been up here and I told him one day, still got those teeth ya made me.

JW: That's amazing, things don't last.

C: I've had those teeth over 50 years

JW: That's great.

C: Your not that old yet

JW: I'm pretty old, 64.

C: Your not ancient, I'm ancient.

GW: Flipping through photos from 1975, starting to become a museum.

C: Brochure – Parade – Celebrations, what days they call it? Doc Hay Days. Brochure celebrating Doc Hay Days. Kids coming up here to it usually. They have kind a taken a back seat anymore. State, everybody else has a finger in it the kids are way back anymore ya know. They're not like they use to be when they lived here and went to school here. It's much different for them cause everybody's taken over. Everybody wants to do this same few wanted to destroy it. I don't think they should ever destroy it.

JW: No, No.

C: Glad I helped you this much. Does me a lot of good, wonder what the heck to do with I been thinking about giving it to Eddie Wah, the kids are younger see. Well still the family wants it, the trouble now, what I want to do is give it to the kids in Portland, they have been awful mice to me over the years, many, many years. It's their family, not mine. I'm not a chinaman, I don't want to claim what I don't see.

JW: I'm sure they would love it in the museum at some point too.

C: I'd thought about that too. I'll mention that to the kids if they want it. I've got Nieces to come into this place and they'll take it.

GW: (Photo of napkins with flags) Your Wife's writing here says "Given to me by Ing Hay. He gave them to customers on 4<sup>th</sup> of July".

C: That's right

GW: More news paper articles from 1987

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C: You won't see 'em no place else. Some have been there a long time.

GW: Sixteen (16) years there.

C: (another photo, 2 men) Tung & Hang. Now that I can't figure out, I don't know, I can't figure out who it was. Chinamen I don't know which ones. See there's no notations on them. You get a kick out of look'n at these.

JW: I sure do, I, there's so many questions that have arisen.

C: Time you get home you'll think of some more, ( can't understand)  
Now you will know more about this than I do. The inscriptions there and all that stuff.  
It's got to do with the Chinese down there.

GW: On the next page it says, "Copywrite and not to be reproduced." And I am not going to go to the next page.

JW: That is just wonderful.

GW: Do you think we should read that letter again? About the first Blood Poising?

C: That's way, way back. That's when they first started. One of the first customers, one of em. That's when he went down and stayed all night. He wouldn't sleep in the bed, you seen that cot he slept on in his bunk. He slept on that (unclear about bed). Real peculiar and I think he slept with his hat on but not sure. I think he used a little dope too.

JW: You think so?

C: Oh they smoked it quite a bit. Oh if fact I know it. I don't think you should mention that. Give him credit for what he was. Course they smoked all kinds, the Chinese did in those days. Talk to Bob Wah, he never, oh no. He took care of Doc Hay in the later days. Took his needles to him and everything.

JW: Did his (Bob Wah) family ever stay in Kam Wah Chung while the house was being built? He and his wife and two boys?

C: Across the street where the house is?

JW: They built the house, did they stay in the Kam Wah Chung store while the house was being built?

C: I don't know. Something I can't answer. I don't know. From my stand point the always lived where they lived. The kids born and raised, they all lived there when they cross the street to the house, Doctor Bob Wah's place. Doctor Hay, he lived in the

Chinese part. He had a bedroom there, very dark and dreary, you wouldn't want to stay in it. I wouldn't want to stay in it but he did that's his living.

JW: Did they ever have a bathroom, toilet inside that building?

C: I think so, they had to have one you know. I can't remember. You ask me something I can't answer. Most positive they did and that has come up before. They had to have a bathroom ya know.

JW: Especially later on when he was older.

C: They had one sure. I am sure there is one in there today. You might look around down there and see if there is one.

GW: Your Wife, this is sort of a story and it says by Cecil Lewis on it. Did you know if she put it in the newspaper or published this story or did she just write it for herself?

C: I can't remember that's been too long ago. That's when Doc Hay first came here. One of his first customers was her Brother.

JW: Oh it was?

C: That's the reason she wrote that.

GW: Do you want to read it again?

C: Do you want me to read it?

GW: Could I film you while you read it?

C: This like being in the movies.

JW: That's right.

GW: Exactly

C: How much do I get for all this?

JW: Signed that release.

( All laughing)

C: Written by Cecil Lewis about her Brother whose name was Frank Lewis. Lives in Mount Vernon and he developed blood poisoning under his arm and was on his death bed when she wrote this letter.

The first Blood Poisoning patient that Doc Ing Hay had when he first came to John Day in 1887 was my brother Frank Lemons, son of J.C. Lemons. Doctor Fell and Doctor Clinton told his Dad they could do no more for him. Mrs. Edda McKern told my Dad that a new Chinese doctor in John Day was to be an expert on blood poison. So my Dan and his Daughter, Aimee Lemons Gilbert came to John Day and brought Doc Hay to the Lemons Ranch where he imminently pulled a lot of gauze from his arm. Used a feather with drawing medicine on it. Infection was drawn out and Frank went to sleep. At first his Father thought he was doped. Frank was one of the twelve children of J.C. Lemons. ( Note: She named all the children on the list) Doc Hay stayed at the Lemons home for several days and refused to sleep in a bed, but slept on an old fashion lounge in the living room.

(Comment by Charlie; You see in his own place he never slept in a bed, slept on an old cot and probably with his hat on, also clothes on if I remember correctly.)

( Continuing story) And Frank grew better each day. He treated him with herb medicine which we brewed in our kitchen on a wood stove. Frank took the herbs for three months and pronounced cured of all infection. My Dad gave him \$100. My Dad would have done anything for Doc Hay and visited him every time he came to John Day. The doctors in Grant County tried every way to find fault with Doc Hay but they failed. I cant read very good but that's the best I can do for you.

JW: That was fantastic.

GW: Thank You

JW: Very good

C: Thank you

GW: Was there anything else you would like to tell us about your recollections of Doc Hay or the Chinese.

C: I knew Doc Hay, went to him several times for different things. The amazing thing about the man, he was very brave. You didn't think he knew anything but he was sharper than a tack and when he gave you something, nine times out of ten worked. As far as I know he had very few failures. Many, Many people had gone to him that didn't feel right and thought they were go'na pass on and take his medicine and come out of it. So you see a lot of people believed in him and a lot of people didn't. To this day lot of people don't believe in medicine herbs. Your medicine is all made out of herbs. He was a nice old man. Bob, his Nephew, took over after he went away, he's very good too. He couldn't hold a candle to Doc Hay but he was very good, very good. He doctored lots of people until he went away. Yep.



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JW: Well we want to thank you very much for sharing everything with us today.

C: Been fun for me. I've been studding about this ever since you called me. Trying to think of dates. I'll be gull darn I can't think. I thought your gon'na ask me questions about dates and I can't remember. I know I was here, I know I did it. I can probably tell you I was there.

JW: That's the most important thing, you were there and could tell us about it.